

**Bonneville Power Administration  
Fish and Wildlife Program FY99 Proposal**

**Section 1. General administrative information**

**Northeast Oregon Wildlife Mitigation O&M  
Trust Fund**

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**Bonneville project number, if an ongoing project**     9096

**Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding**  
Nez Perce Tribe

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**Business acronym (if appropriate)**     NPT

**Proposal contact person or principal investigator:**

**Name**                      Kieth Lawrence  
**Mailing Address**     P.O. 365  
**City, ST Zip**            Lapwai, ID   83540  
**Phone**                    1-208-843-2253  
**Fax**                        1-208-843-7329  
**Email address**

**Subcontractors.**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>City, ST Zip</b>	<b>Contact Name</b>
N/A at this time			

**NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses.**

The Trust Fund will provide stable O&M funding for 60 years to preserve and protect 16,500 acres in NE Oregon which partially mitigates wildlife losses caused by hydropower production at federal facilities within the Columbia River Basin..

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**NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses.**

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**Other planning document references.**

N/A

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**Subbasin.**Grande Ronde, Joseph Creek

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**Short description.**

Provide long term operation and maintenance on 16,500 acres adjacent to the Hells Canyon NRA and the Wallowa Whitman NF, mainly south of the Grande Ronde River and west of the Snake River, to mitigate wildlife losses caused by hydropower development. .

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**Section 2. Key words**

Mark	Programmatic Categories	Mark	Activities	Mark	Project Types
	Anadromous fish		Construction		Watershed
	Resident fish	X	O & M		Biodiversity/genetics
X	Wildlife		Production		Population dynamics
	Oceans/estuaries		Research		Ecosystems
	Climate		Monitoring/eval.		Flow/survival
	Other		Resource mgmt		Fish disease
			Planning/admin.		Supplementation
			Enforcement	X	Wildlife habitat en-
			Acquisitions		hancement/restoration

**Other keywords.**Trust fund

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**Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects**

Project #	Project title/description	Nature of relationship
9608000	The NPT's NEOR 16,500 acre Wildl. Mit. Proj., BPA contract # 96BI97175.	This trust fund will provide long term, stable funding for O&M in perpetuity.

**Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules****Objectives and tasks**

Obj 1,2,3	Objective	Task a,b,c	Task
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1	Yearly develop and maintain resource data base for project lands acquired by the NPt, under BPA contract # 96BI97175	a	Maintain current mapping and aerial photography information
		b	Develop new and maintain current GIS data bases.
		c	Acquire new mapping data to fill data gaps.
2	Noxious weed monitoring and control, yearly.	a	Monitor noxious weed presents and map distribution.
		b	Coordinate with local weed supervisors.
		c	Control existing noxious weeds using excepted methods of control.
3	Maintain the integrity of the property boundary against tresspass grazing, yearly.	a	Monitor conditons of existing fences.
		b	Repair fences, gates, and crossings.
		c	Construct new fencing and gates along with coordinate, cooperate with, and surpervise volunteer groups and projects using outside funding sources.
4	Manage access to the property, yearly.	a	Maintain existing roads in good repair.
		b	Maintain information signs.
		c	Coordinate, cooperate with and supervise volunteer groups who wish to develop access projects using outside funding.
5	Maintain existing facilities on the property, yearly.	a	Maintain existing capital facilities in support of field crews.
6	Protect property and facilities against fire, yearly.	a	Contract for initial strike on fire.
		b	Maintain fire cache in good working condition.
		c	Provide training in fire fighting and safety.
7	Yearly project administration	a	Staff training in operation, maintenance and care of equipment and resources.
		b	Quarterly reports

		c	Coordinate with appropriate agencies and neighbors.
8	Yearly Management Plan Implementation.	a	Implement the NEOR project management plan
		b	Develop a yearly implementation Plan.

### ***Objective schedules and costs***

<b>Objective #</b>	<b>Start Date mm/yyyy</b>	<b>End Date mm/yyyy</b>	<b>Cost %</b>
1			3.00%
2			15.00%
3			15.00%
4			9.00%
5			10.00%
6			10.00%
7			7.00%
8			31.00%
			TOTAL 100.00%

### **Schedule constraints.**

The Trust Fund would be operated by proven Trust Managers, however, O&M budgets would be subject to the income generated from the previous year. The budget would be based on previous years earnings, living on the interest only.

### **Completion date.**

One years funding of the Trust Fund, would provide O&M in perpetuity, preferably all the funding would occur in 1999 at rate of \$3.428/acre/60years. This amounts to \$3,393,892.00 one time funding and multi year funding by yr 2001, totalling \$3,558,766.

## **Section 5. Budget**

### ***FY99 budget by line item***

<b>Item</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>FY99</b>
Personnel	Trust Fund generated-variable amounts based on \$3.428/acre/60 years.	
Fringe benefits	Trust Fund generated-variable amounts based on \$3.428/acre/60 years.	
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property	Trust Fund generated-variable amounts based on \$3.428/acre/60 years.	

Operations & maintenance	Trust Fund generated-variable amounts based on \$3.428/acre/60 years.	
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)	Trust Fund generated-variable amounts based on \$3.428/acre/60 years.	
PIT tags	# of tags:	
Travel	Trust Fund generated-variable amounts based on \$3.428/acre/60 years.	
Indirect costs	Trust Fund generated-variable amounts based on \$3.428/acre/60 years.	
Subcontracts	Trust Fund generated-variable amounts based on \$3.428/acre/60 years.	
Other	Trust Fund total needed is \$3,393,892.00 one time payout, \$3.428/acre/60 years.	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 0</b>

### ***Outyear costs***

<b>Outyear costs</b>	<b>FY2000</b>	<b>FY01</b>	<b>FY02</b>	<b>FY03</b>
Total budget	\$242,917	\$250,204	\$257,710	\$265,442
O&M as % of total	99.99%	99.00%	99.00%	99.00%

## **Section 6. Abstract**

The NEOR Wildlife Mitigation Project is expected to mitigate for approximately half the outstanding wildlife losses amended into the PNPPC's Fish and Wildlife Program attributed to the Lower Snake River Complex of Dam's. The NPT working with the Trust for Public Lands identified an opportunity to acquire a ranch in NEOR which would provide habitat diversity, native grasslands, riparian habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species. The property had somewhat limited access and the possibility of future additional land acquisitions. The overall goal of the project would be to protect and preserve the property for the benefit of native species (elk, big horn sheep, quail, etc.) while protecting the native vegetation and watershed.

An inventory of the property will be completed and a management plan following a public format will outline future activities occurring on the property for the benefit of wildlife. A monitoring program will be outlined to measure the success of the management plans and provide feedback for adaptive management. A baseline HEP and periodic HEP evaluations will be used to document habitat improvements consistent with the Power Council's Program.

Initially, the property will be managed for limited access, (by foot, horseback, etc.) until a management plan can be put in place. The full extent of the resources available on the property will need to be inventoried first, then management plans and implementation plans could be expected to be finished and implementation fully under

way within 3 to 5 years. The property is expected to be managed for the benefit of wildlife in perpetuity. **This proposal is to fund a NEOR Wildlife Mitigation Trust Fund, the interest of which will be used for Operation and Maintenance of the project lands in perpetuity. Funding of the Trust would preferably be with one payment of \$3,392,822 or with three payments (\$1,200,000, \$1,200,000, and \$1,158,766) totalling \$3,558,766.**

## **Section 7. Project description**

### **a. Technical and/or scientific background.**

The NEOR Wildlife Mitigation Project is expected to mitigate for approximately half the outstanding wildlife losses amended into the PNPPC's Fish and Wildlife Program attributed to the Lower Snake River Complex of Dam's. The NPT working with the Trust for Public Lands identified an opportunity to acquire a ranch in NEOR which would provide habitat diversity, native grasslands, riparian habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species. The property had somewhat limited access and the possibility of future land acquisitions. The overall goal of the mitigation project would be to protect and preserve the property for the benefit of native species (elk, big horn sheep, quail, etc.) while protecting the native vegetation and watershed. This would mitigate Lower Snake losses out-of-place, out-of-kind. Out-of-place, out-of-kind is preferable if in-place mitigation is limited due to it being in a high human impact area.

The goal of this project proposal is to provide long term maintenance and operations funding in support of the NPT's NEOR Wildlife Mitigation Project in perpetuity. Approximate baseline funding levels were identified in the contract agreement #96BI97175 signed by the NPT and BPA.

### **b. Proposal objectives.**

The objectives of this proposal is to provide funding to protect the integrity of the property and existing wildlife habitat units acquired for wildlife mitigation in NEOR against trespass grazing, noxious weeds, wildfire, along with maintaining existing facilities and quality habitats.

**1. Develop and maintain resource data base yearly for project land acquired by the NPT, under BPA contract #96BI97175.**

**2. Noxious weed monitoring and control, yearly.**

**3. Maintain the integrity of the property boundary against trespass grazing, yearly.**

**4. Manage and maintain access to the property, yearly.**

**5. Maintain existing facilities on the property, yearly.**

**6. Protect property and facilities against fire, yearly.**

**7. Yearly project administration.**

**8. Implementation of habitat management plan, yearly.**

**c. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs.**

The use of a Trust Fund to finance Operations and Maintenance of Wildlife Mitigation projects is highly preferred. Trust Funds provide more flexibility in performing activities in each project site. Each manager knows what is available to them for management activities. Trusts provide incentives to save carryover funds which managers know will be available to them the following year or could be held back to allow the fund to grow. Each manager would be in control of their own success both financial and biological. Trusts also allow for long term planning and provides more opportunities to seek matching funds from outside groups willing to add funding to activities on the property. There would be no reduction in accountability for the funds, but it would add more responsibility on to the managing agency or tribe, where it should be.

**d. Project history**

The NEOR Wildlife Mitigation Project was proposed to mitigate for approximately half the outstanding wildlife losses amended into the PNPPC's Fish and Wildlife Program attributed to the Lower Snake River Complex of Dam's. The NPT working with the Trust for Public Lands identified an opportunity in 1995 to acquire a ranch in NEOR which would provide habitat diversity, native grasslands, riparian habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species. The property had somewhat limited access and the possibility of future additional land acquisitions. The overall goal of the project was to protect and preserve the property for the benefit of native species (elk, big horn sheep, quail, etc.) while protecting the native vegetation and watershed.

A contract was signed in 1996 by the NPT and the BPA (#96BI97175) to acquire and manage the property for the benefit of wildlife. The agreement included BPA agreeing to develop long term funding of O&M. Funds totalling \$4,500,000 were received for acquisition and inventory work along with outyear funding for O&M to FY year 2001. Startup O&M costs of \$411,393 was provided for FY 97-98.

A total of 10,300 acres have been acquired to date. Talks with adjacent landowners are proceeding. An additional 6,200 acres is being sought.

An inventory of the property will be completed and a management plan following a public format will outline future activities occurring on the property for the benefit of wildlife. A monitoring program will be outlined to measure the success of the management plans and provide feedback for adaptive management. A baseline HEP and periodic HEP evaluations will be used to document habitat improvements consistent with the Power Council's Program.

Initially, the property will be managed for limited access, (by foot, horseback, etc.) until a management plan can be put in place. The full extent of the resources available on the property will need to be accomplished first. Inventories, management plans and implementation plans could be expected to be finished and implementation fully under way within 3 to 5 years. The property is expected to be managed for the benefit of wildlife in perpetuity. **This proposal is to fund a NEOR Wildlife Mitigation Trust Fund, the interest of which will be used for Operation and Maintenance of the**

**project lands in perpetuity. Funding of the Trust would preferably be with one payment of \$3,393,892 or with three payments totalling \$3,558,766.**

**e. Methods.**

The tribe will follow recognized methods some of which are outlined in the Wildlife Program EIS, FONSI approved and signed in 1997 by BPA.

**f. Facilities and equipment.**

The existing ownership has two cabins on the property which will be used by field personal to increase the efficiency of field crews by having them stay out on the property while performing field work. Both facilities provide shelter, water, bathroom facilities, cooking facilities and storage for equipment along with livestock handling facilities. These cabins are for seasonal use. Future acquisitions under this program may have year round housing available on the properties. Having permanent, on site personal would depend on the presents of such facilities.

Two 4x4 vehicles are leased for the project. The project will be equipped to be self supporting due to the remoteness of the site.

**g. References.**

N/A

## **Section 8. Relationships to other projects**

The location of the property provides the opportunity and necessity to work with the following:

**Wallowa Whitman National Forest** - 4 miles of Common boundary - main access point through the forest.

**Hells Canyon Recreation Area** - 3 miles of common boundary

**The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation** - Project is an important winter range for elk.

**Blue Mountain Elk Initiative** - NPT is a member of the charter group.

**Hells Canyon Big Horn Sheep Restoration** - Joseph Creek herd use part of the project area. Could be important recovery area. Disease free area.

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed** - Project falls within the GRMW.

**BLM** - The Project has numerous BLM in-holdings within the boundary area.



**State of Oregon** - State lands within boundary.

**State of Oregon** - Fish & Game - Cooperative Game Management.

**Wallowa County** - Cooperative Weed Management

## **Section 9. Key personnel**

POSITION: PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Loren A. Kronemann, Wildlife/Mitigation Biologist .25 FTE

Duties: Supervise the management of the property. Supervise management plan development and its implementation. Participate in the on the ground project implementation. Provide administrative support for site manager and staff. Supervise and coordinate wildlife research and inventories occurring on project lands. Supervise agency coordination.

Education: BS Wildlife Mgt University of Idaho, Moscow ID. 73 - 77  
MS Range Mgt/Wildlife Emphasis Texas Tech Univ. Lubbock, TX 79 -82  
“The effects of fire on mule deer browse species in SE New Mexico.”

Employer: Nez Perce Tribe P.O. Box 365, Lapwai ID 83540 10 ½ years

Previous Employment:

Texas Tech Medical School, Lubbock, TX 83-87  
US F&W, Hobe Sound Nat. Wildlife Refuge, Giant Sea Turtles 82  
US F&W, Boise Field Station, Wildl. Mgt. Plan for Dworshak Res. 79  
U. of Idaho, Wildl. Habitat Inventory on BLM Lands in North Idaho 77-79  
US F&W, Kenai, Alaska Habitat Study on moose refuge. 77

Background: Most all of my experience falls in the category of habitat management. I have a strong background in habitat inventories and habitat management planning. Fire management was the bases for my graduate research work. The nutritional changes in regrowth vegetation after burning of several desert shrubs was the scope of my graduate work. Vegetation sampling has been the central focus using many different methods is common in all of my related work experience, grasses, shrubs and overstory sampling. Riparian habitat restoration is a strong interest area.

POSITION: SITE MANAGER 1 FTE No one has been selected for this position at the present time.

The site manager will supervise the day to day operations of the project. He will supervise and coordinate staff to fulfill the objectives listed in the Operations and

Maintenance Contract with BPA. Primary responsibilities are to maintain and protect the property and serve the public who wish to use it.

## **Section 10. Information/technology transfer**

All data collected on the project will be maintained on the Tribe's GIS system. All management documents will be made available to the public and agencies upon request. All information and data will be kept on computer for ease of distribution. If requested, personal will be available for workshops, public, and professional meetings.